

AGENDA



Addison Central School District

ACSD Board

Board Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2023, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury VT & Virtual Connection

ACSD District Vision and Mission

OUR VISION

All students will reach their full academic potential and be prepared for success as engaged citizens.

OUR MISSION

To provide an innovative, rigorous, and supportive educational community that inspires a passion for learning and cultivates empathy and responsibility.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86453546660>

- A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum
 - 1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff
 - 2. Public Comment
- B. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of January 17, 2023
- C. Approve ACSD Bills
- D. Report of the Superintendent
- E. Report of the Board
 - 1. Action: Superintendent Search Consultants
 - 2. Action: Amend Warnings (Tentative)
 - 3. Discussion: Appointment of ACSD Cornwall Resident Board Member Vacancy
 - 4. Executive Session - For the purpose of the Appointment of a Public Officer [1 VSA 313 (a) (3)]
 - 5. Action: Appointment of ACSD Cornwall Resident Board Member Vacancy
- F. Other
- G. Adjournment

***Public Comment Guidelines:**

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MINUTES



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In-Person Attendance

Barbara Wilson; Brian Bauer; James Malcolm; Jamie McCallum; Jennifer Nueder; Joanna Doria; Mary Gill; Mary Heather Noble; Steve Orzech; Suzanne Buck; Victoria Jette

Remote Attendance

Lindsey Hescock

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88491277010>

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching A Quorum

Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

ACSD Staff and Administrators present: Peter Burrows, Superintendent; Caitlin Steele, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Nicole Carter, Director and Equity and Student Services; Matt Corrente, Director of Finance and Operations; Will Hatch, Director of Technology

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

B. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of January 9, 2023

Mary Gill abstained.

Motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2023.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

C. Approve ACSD Bills

James Malcolm presented a summary of the ACSD bills read on January 16 and 17, 2023:

General Fund: \$904,598.11 (note: ~\$230,000 of this is transportation and ~\$130,000 is healthcare)

Payroll: \$181,925.51

Payroll: \$ 673.94

Payroll: \$165,711.05

Payroll: \$878,703.26

Board questions:

Mary Gill asked Matt Corrente about the letter that he sent to Betcha Transit, and whether ACSD has received any reimbursement for cancelled routes. Matt responded that Central Office has been tracking missed routes and has received compensation for transportation services that haven't been provided.

Barb Wilson asked about a statement that she came across when reading the bills -- it was a line item for ACSD office plans by TrueEx Cullins. Peter Burrows explained that the item was part of a process that the Facilities Department was conducting to explore ways to provide more workspace for employees at Central Office and 208 Charles Ave. The flooding incident at Central Office has created some challenges, and the Facilities Department has been looking at some flexible options. Bruce Macintire was not present to provide details, but can provide additional information.

Motion to approve payment of the ACSD bills as presented.

Move: James Malcolm Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

D. Report of the Superintendent

Peter Burrows provided a run-down of the additional information that will be included in tonight's budget presentation. The focus will be on the impact to taxes in each town, and a comparative analysis of ACSD's proposed budget along with other school districts in the area. Matt Corrente then led the Board through the presentation.

Sample tax calculations were presented, completed using a few assumptions:

- \$300,000 valued property
- Average tax bill for a residential property of this type ~\$5,147
- 66% of VT residents receive an income sensitivity tax credit. An annual household income of \$60K would qualify for this relief.
- Proposed FY24 tax rate for ACSD is \$1.40

BRIDPORT:

- CLA is 79.29%
- FY24 tax rate would be \$1.77 (it was \$1.71 for FY23)
- Represents an increase of \$15/month
- For a \$300K property with no income sensitivity -- \$442.50 per month
- For a \$300K property WITH income sensitivity credit -- \$142 per month

CORNWALL:

- CLA is 85.67%
- FY24 tax rate would be \$1.63 (it was \$1.72 for FY23)

- Represents a decrease of \$22.50/month
- For a \$300K property with no income sensitivity -- \$407.50 per month
- For a \$300K property WITH income sensitivity credit -- \$107 per month

MIDDLEBURY:

- CLA is 83.88%
- FY24 tax rate would be \$1.67 (it was \$1.66 for FY23)
- Represents an increase of \$2.50/month
- For a \$300K property with no income sensitivity -- \$417.50 per month
- For a \$300K property WITH income sensitivity credit -- \$117 per month

RIPTON:

- CLA is 79.45%
- FY24 tax rate would be \$1.76 (it was \$1.85 for FY23)
- Represents an decrease of \$22.50/month
- For a \$300K property with no income sensitivity -- \$440 per month
- For a \$300K property WITH income sensitivity credit -- \$139.50 per month

SALISBURY:

- CLA is 75.97%
- FY24 tax rate would be \$1.84 (it was \$1.78 for FY23)
- Represents an increase of \$15/month
- For a \$300K property with no income sensitivity -- \$4600 per month
- For a \$300K property WITH income sensitivity credit -- \$159.50 per month

SHOREHAM:

- CLA is 82.9%
- FY24 tax rate would be \$1.69 (it was \$1.65 for FY23)
- Represents an increase of \$10/month
- For a \$300K property with no income sensitivity -- \$422.50 per month
- For a \$300K property WITH income sensitivity credit -- \$122 per month

WEYBRIDGE:

- CLA is 84.75%
- FY24 tax rate would be \$1.65 (it was \$1.61 for FY23)
- Represents an increase of \$10/month
- For a \$300K property with no income sensitivity -- \$412.50 per month
- For a \$300K property WITH income sensitivity credit -- \$112 per month

Matt Corrente provided graphs to show comparisons of ACSD proposed FY24 expenditures and spending per equalized pupil with those of other area districts -- ACSD's figures fall within range of other districts (of note -- ANWSD and Winooski spending figures are comparatively high due to recent teacher salary increases and Bond debt load, respectively.) He also reported that the Budget Book has been revised to include explanation of the warned figure as the expenditures and not the total budget including grants. Updated historical appendices have also been added, including tax rates, equalized pupils, FTE, etc.

Peter and Matt also explained the memo regarding the administration's recommendations to request voter permission to move the ~\$1.5 million surplus into the Capital Reserve Fund for future facilities projects. Peter explained that the Facilities Department will work with the Facilities Committee to look at specific recommendations/wish list projects to proposed later in the spring of 2023.

Board questions:

James Malcolm noted that the cost/equalized pupil figure was a much bigger deal when there was a State spending threshold in place. He asked if the Health Reserve Fund was in fact moved to the Education Fund. Peter Burrows confirmed.

Jamie McCallum asked about the wish list items included in the memo re: moving the surplus to the Capital Reserve Fund -- how does the list get made? Peter explained that they are hypothetical projects that could be paid for with surplus funds. They are not currently asking for the money to be directed to any specific projects now -- these are just examples. Jen Nuceder further explained the options the Board has with respect to the surplus. Peter noted that given the state of ACSD's facilities, the best option is to place money into Capital Reserve to use for urgent projects until a Bond measure can be developed for larger needs. Joanna Doria asked if there was already money in the Capital Reserve Fund -- Matt answered that there is, but it is already earmarked to be spent on the MUHS cafeteria improvement project. Steve Orzech cautioned against returning the surplus to voters because it will create a financial cliff for FY25 on top of the sunseting ESSER funds.

E. Report of the Board

1. Action: Adopt FY24 Budget

Motion to adopt the budget and approve Article 1 of the Australian ballot warning combined.

Motion to adopt the ACSD FY24 budget of \$42,269,305 in expenditures and approve Article 1 of the Australian ballot warning as proposed. If approved it will result in \$21,663 per equalized pupil of education spending, which is 8.1% higher than spending for the current year.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Steve Orzech Status: Passed

2. Action: Approve Australian Ballot Warning

Motions for Articles 2 and 3 of the Australian ballot warning were provided separately:

Motion to approve Article 2 as presented, to ask voters to authorize the ACSD Board to appropriate \$1,520,974 of the FY22 unassigned balance to the Capital Reserve Fund -- Made by Suzanne Buck; seconded by James Malcolm. Motion passed. Brian Bauer abstained.

Motion to approve Article 3 as presented, to ask voters to authorize an increase in the ACSD Board Stipend from \$500 to \$1,200 -- Made by Suzanne Buck; seconded by Steve Orzech. Motion passed.

3. Action: Approve Annual Meeting Warnings

James Malcolm clarified that the Annual Meeting will include a presentation by Peter Burrows and Matt Corrente to walk voters through the budget details.

Motion to approve the warning for the ACSD Annual Meeting on February 28, 2023 as presented.

Move: James Malcolm Second: Suzanne Buck Status: Passed

4. Amend: E1 Title I, Part A Parental Involvement Policy

Mary Gill explained the statutory basis for the policy and invited Caitlin Steele to add details. The policy is a Federally required policy, tied to Title 1 funding for eligible schools. The process required authentic stakeholder comments for policy development, but is ultimately pretty rigid in its structure. Caitlin tried to include the stakeholder feedback she received. Specific parent engagement procedures are written by Principals of each Title 1 school -- and which of ACSD's schools qualify for Title 1 funding shifts a bit from year to year.

Board Questions & Comments:

Barb Wilson asked if/how the Board will ever see results from the Parental Involvement Policy. Peter Burrows answered that this should be incorporated into the Strategic Plan deliverables that are used to inform the Superintendent reports. The Strategic Plan should have the framework from which the Board and administration can assess how the district is doing.

Joanna Doria suggested indicating in the Budget Book which schools are Title 1, and illustrate how the Title 1 funds are being spent.

Jen Nuceder asked if the Policy might be overcommitting the District in terms of specific actions or deliverables.

Jamie McCallum spoke the distinction between parent involvement vs parent engagement, and that the changes from boiler plate language were likely to codify that distinction.

Note: Brian Bauer abstained from voting on this motion.

Motion to amend Policy E1 Title I Part A -- Parental Involvement Policy as presented.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Barbara Wilson Status: Passed

F. Other

None.

G. Executive Session: Personnel

Entered Executive Session at 6:55 p.m.

Exited Executive Session at 8:14 p.m.

Additional motion made upon return to open session:

Motion to research consulting firms to initiate Superintendent Search process made by Jen Nuceder; Seconded by Barb Wilson. Motion passed.

Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Move: Jennifer Nuceder Second: Jamie McCallum Status: Passed

H. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Move: Suzanne Buck Second: Brian Bauer Status: Passed

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